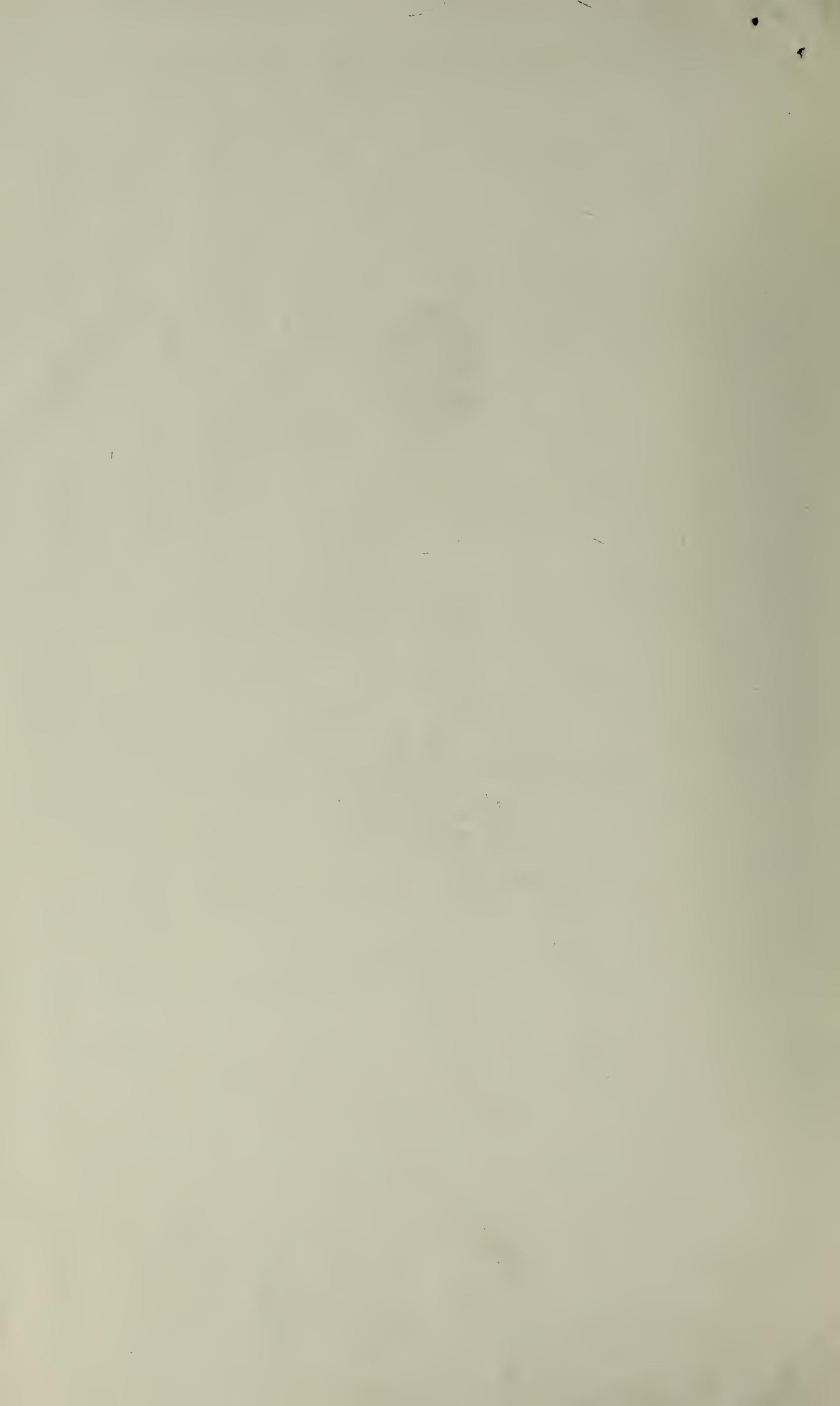




THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF SHERINGHAM

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO WHICH IS APPENDED
THE REPORT OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1957



1.

THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF SHERINGHAM

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1957

Chairman

Mr. Councillor W.H. Bayfield.

Vice-Chairman

Mr. Councillor F.G. Jordan.

Mr. Councillor R.J. Durrant.

Mr. Councillor J.N. Farrow.

Mr. Councillor A.E. Hamlin.

Mr. Councillor A.O. Harvey.

Miss Councillor G.C. Huntley.

Mr. Councillor E.N. Long.

Mr. Councillor J.H. Pegg.

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF SHERINGHAM

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1957

Mr. Chairman, Miss Huntley and Gentlemen,

In my acting capacity as Medical Officer of Health of the District due to Dr. Norbury's unfortunate illness, I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1957.

It will be appreciated that, in these circumstances, the Report must necessarily be brief. It is confined mainly to the statistical records bearing on the public health of the District and to the environmental factors which have been dealt with in the Report of the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, which is attached to this Report (Part II).

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Sershall and the Staff of the Local Health Office for the Area, for their assistance in the compilation of this Report.

Your obedient Servant,

W.H. CRICHTON, C.I.E., M.B.,
Ch.B., D.P.H.

Acting Medical Officer of
Health.

PART IStatistics and Social Conditions of the District

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	929.
Population (Estimated)	...	...	...	...	4,620.
Number of separately assessed houses and flats					1,708.
Number of shops assessed with dwelling accommodation					65.
Total Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£71,812.
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£282. 4. 1.

1. Social Conditions.

The Urban District of Sheringham is situated on the North Coast of Norfolk, facing North. It is bounded by the Sea on the North and by a low range of wooded hills which fall generally for a mile from the South. It adjoins the Erpingham Rural District on three sides, and has on its outskirts such picturesque places as the Roman Camp, Pretty Corner and the village of Upper Sheringham.

During the Summer months visitors in abundance resort to Sheringham for the bracing air, fine sands, golf links and scenery.

The Population is composed of (1) Fishermen, (2) those whose business it is to let rooms, and tradesmen, and (3) a constantly increasing class who resort to Sheringham for its natural beauties, its fine golf links and its bracing air.

2. Vital Statistics.

<u>(a) Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Legitimate	32	44	76
Illegitimate	5	3	8
	<u>37</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>84</u>

(b) Percentage of Illegitimate Births. - 9.5% as compared with 1.4% in the preceding Year.

(c) Live Birth Rate. - 18.1 per 1,000 estimated population compared with 15.1 in 1956. The corrected birth rate, after application of the comparability factor (1.27) is 22.9 per thousand. The corresponding figure in 1956 was 19.3.

(d) Still Births. - There were 2 still-births, a male child and a female child, the former illegitimate, the latter legitimate. The still-birth rate, per 1,000 live and still-births, was 23.2.

(e) Infant Deaths. Four deaths of children under one Year of age were recorded. Three of these were males, of whom two were illegitimate, and one was female.

(f) Infant Mortality Rates. - The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 47.6, a considerably higher figure than that obtaining in the preceding Year which was 12 per 1,000.

Both the legitimate and the illegitimate infant mortality rates are 23.8 per 1,000 live births, and the neo-natal mortality rate, i.e. deaths in infants in the first 4 weeks of life, is also 23.8, two infants, one male (illegitimate) and one female (legitimate) having died at that age.

(g) The Causes of Death. - The number of deaths and their causes as recorded by the Registrar General are shown in the following tabular statement:-

The Causes of Death:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Cancer, stomach.....	-	1	1
" lungs, bronchi.....	-	-	-
" breast.....	-	2	2
" uterus.....	-	2	2
Other forms of Cancer.....	3	1	4
Vascular lesions, Nervous system.....	2	6	8
Coronary Disease and Angina.....	10	4	14
Other heart disease.....	2	14	16
Other circulatory diseases.....	1	-	1
Pneumonia.....	2	2	4
Bronchitis.....	-	1	1
Other ill-defined diseases.....	1	2	3
Motor accidents.....	-	-	-
All other accidents.....	1	2	3
Suicide.....	1	1	2
	<u>23</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>61</u>

It will be noted that the total number of deaths is appreciably less than that of 1956 (78) and that no deaths whatever occurred from tuberculosis, maternal causes or any infective condition, which is very gratifying. Cancer accounted for 15% of all deaths; Heart Disease for 49%; Vascular lesions of the nervous system for 13%; and respiratory disease for 8%.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 13.2 as compared with 16.6 in the preceding Year; and the corrected death rate, after application of the comparability factor (0.65), was 8.5 per 1,000 as against 10.8 in 1956.

Maternal Mortality. - Nil.

3. Infectious Diseases.

(a) The number and character of notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the District is shown in the following table, where they are classified by age group:-

Disease	Age Unknown	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25+	Total
Acute Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
T.B. Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	4

This very low incidence of infectious disease is in keeping with the excellent record of the District and speaks well for its salubrity.

(b) Tuberculosis. - As shown in the table above one new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified in a young man of 25 years of age. This case, with four "inward transfers", i.e. cases of tuberculosis who have come to live in the District, brought the total number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register to 40 at the end of 1957, as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
17	20	-	3

(c) Poliomyelitis. - The two cases notified occurred.

810 persons were vaccinated in the Area with two doses of poliomyelitis vaccine during the Year. These comprised only children in the age groups 3 to 10 Years. In Sheringham Urban District 94 persons in these age groups were protected with two doses.

3. Infectious Diseases - (Continued).

(d) Smallpox Vaccination. - Figures are only available on an Area basis but these show an appreciable increase on the preceding Year's figures, thus:-

Age at date of vaccination	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-14	15 & Over	Total
Primary	257	8	-	4	15	7	23	314 (299)
Re-vaccination	-	3	-	-	5	31	69	108 (96)

(Figures in brackets relate to 1956).

(e) Diphtheria Immunisation. - Again figures are only available on an Area basis and these show that during the Year 248 children under the age of 15 were given a complete course of immunisation and 8 "booster" doses. By the end of the Year, the number of infants and children of school age who had been immunised since the inception of the scheme in 1943, amounted to 3,796 of whom 1,618 also received "booster" doses.

Although, not specifically shown, most of the primary courses given to the 248 children will have been combined with vaccine against whooping cough.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water. - The Eastern Gas Board serve water to all the properties within the Urban District by a piped supply. The collecting ground, pumping station and reservoirs are situated in the Sheringham Woods, a situation which is isolated and enclosed approximately half-a-mile South of the Town.

The water is derived:-

- (a) From springs situated within the collecting grounds and stored in reservoirs.
- (b) From two deep wells sunk in chalk approximately 400 feet deep. The water is pumped into a reservoir at a higher level to supply by gravitation the high-lying parts of the Town.
- (i) (a) Quality of Water. - On behalf of the Eastern Gas Board the Counties Public Health Laboratory carried out monthly bacteriological examinations and half-yearly chemical analysis of the treated water as supplied in this Urban District during the period under review, all of which proved to be of a very high standard of purity. Certificates giving the result of these bacteriological and chemical examinations are exhibited in the Showroom of the Eastern Gas Board's premises in Sheringham for the perusal of the general public. Chlorine residue tests are carried out daily on the Spring and Well waters, both treated and untreated.
- (b) Quantity of Water. - The quantity of water supplied in the Urban District is sufficient for all purposes during dry weather. The quantity of water obtained from the various springs naturally varies a little during the Summer and dry weather, but the level of the water in the wells varies little however much it is pumped and has never shown signs of failing.
- (ii) The water supplied within the Urban District is not liable to plumbago-solvent action, as the p.H. Reaction of the water is neutral or on the alkaline side of neutrality. All the water service pipes are laid on in galvanised wrought iron.
- (iii) No action has been found necessary in respect of any form of contamination of the water supply.
- (iv) (a) Number of dwelling-houses supplied direct from public water mains 1,724.
- Number of population supplied from public water mains 4,460.
- (b) Number of dwelling-houses supplied by means of stand pipes 51.
- Number of population supplied by means of stand pipes 150.

2. Drainage and Sewerage. - The Urban District is sewered throughout with a system needing improvement as it is not capable of dealing with excessive and sudden rainfall.

The Council's Consulting Engineers have submitted schemes for:-

- (a) The provision of a 24" dia. C.I. pipe Sea outfall 367 yards long to replace the present defective and worn-out outfall pipe, and
- (b) Relieving the main sewers at points of surcharge.

The schemes have been submitted for approval of the Minister of Housing and Local Government and a Public Inquiry is to be held early in 1958.

3. Rivers and Streams. - One stream runs through the Urban District and it has not been necessary to take any action during the period to check pollution.

4. (a) Closet Accommodation. - All houses, excepting three unfit houses, in the Urban District are connected to the sewer and have modern type water closets.

(b) Public Cleansing. - House refuse bins are emptied once weekly and two motor refuse collection vehicles are used in this service. It is found necessary in the Summer months to make twice weekly collections of refuse from boarding houses and hotels. House refuse is disposed of by the method of controlled tipping on a site on the outskirts of the District.

(c) Schools. - The Schools are of a modern type, the water supply and sanitary conditions being quite satisfactory. In cases of notifiable infectious disease, the schools are at once visited by the Medical Officer of Health, the scholars inspected, and endeavours made to exclude infective children.

(d) Premises and Occupations Controlled by Byelaws. - There is no Common Lodging House or Offensive Trade in the Urban District.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

(a) Inspections and Visits. The following inspections and visits have been carried out during the period:-

Sanitary routine inspections and re-visits.....	81.
Visits to Slaughterhouse for meat inspection.....	139.
Food premises and food inspection.....	27.
Visits in connection with milk and dairy premises.....	5.
Factory inspections.....	7.
Dirty premises and re-visits.....	9.
Drainage inspections and re-visits.....	23.
Rat destruction inspections and re-visits.....	66.
Miscellaneous visits.....	163.

(b) Action taken in consequence of inspections:-

Informal Notices served.....	23.
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936.....	2.

(c) Result of action taken in consequence of Notices served:-

Defects remedied by Informal Notices.....	21.
" " " Statutory Notices.....	2.
" " " Legal Proceedings.....	Nil.

(d) Summary of work carried out as a result of Formal and Informal action:-

Defective drains renewed.....	3.
Drains unblocked and cleansed.....	7.
Water Closet pedestals renewed.....	2.
Sinks renewed.....	4.
Sink Waste pipes renewed and trapped.....	4.
Roofs repaired.....	5.
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt.....	2.
Eaves guttering and downpipes repaired.....	2.
Windows repaired.....	11.
Doors repaired or renewed.....	2.
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired.....	9.
Firegrates repaired or renewed.....	4.
Floors repaired or renewed.....	2.
Water closet rebuilt.....	1.
Damp walls repaired and treated.....	5.
Dirty premises cleansed.....	6.

(SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA -Continued).

(e) Number of inspections and visits in connection with the duties of Surveyor:-

Number of Building Plans submitted for approval.....	31.
" " " " " approved.....	28.
" " " " " disapproved or withdrawn.....	3.
" " " " " for houses and bungalows.....	7.
" " " " " conversions.....	2.
" " " " " additions and alterations.....	9.
" " " " " garages.....	7.
" " " " " sheds, etc.,.....	1.
" " " " " electrical sub-station.....	1.
" " " " " water closet.....	1.

Visits in connection with inspection of:-

Foundations.....	9.
Damp proof courses.....	9.
General Building Byelaw inspections.....	88.

Number of drain tests carried out in new buildings..... 17.

Number of new houses erected during the period:-

By the Local Authority.....	Nil.
By other persons.....	8.

The under-mentioned salvaged materials have been collected during the period, giving an income of £53. 11. 0., namely:-

Paper 8 Tons 7 Cwts.
Rags 5 Cwts. 6 Stones.
Metal 2 Cwts.

(f) Shops. - No action under this heading has been found necessary.

(g) Camping Sites. - There are no camping or caravan sites in the Urban District.

(h) Smoke Abatement. - No action under this heading has been found necessary.

(i) Swimming Baths and Pools. - There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public in the Urban District.

(j) Eradication of Bed Bugs. - No evidence has been found of bed bugs in this Urban District.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. - There are no milk producers or cowkeepers within the Urban District.

Number of retail purveyors	9.
Number of Dealers Licences to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" and "Pasteurised" milk	5.
Number of Dealers Licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" milk	4.
Number of Pasteuriser's Licences issued by the Norfolk County Council	1.

Forty-six samples of Pasteurised milk have been taken during the period by the Norfolk County Council Medical Officer's Department from the Sheringham premises and vehicles of East Coast Dairies Ltd., and all samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

Ice-Cream. - Six samples of Ice-Cream were taken during the period from retailers in the Urban District and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Norwich, for bacteriological examination resulting in five samples being Provisional Grade I, and one sample Provisional Grade II.

(b) Adulteration, Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. - The appropriate Authority under this heading is the Norfolk County Council.

(SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA - Continued).

(c) Nutrition. - No special work in the dissemination of knowledge on this subject has been considered necessary.

(d) Shellfish. - No shellfish are gathered within the area of the Urban District.

(e) Food Hygiene Regulations. - Inspections of food premises in the Urban District have been made and it has been unnecessary to take any statutory or legal action in this matter.

(f) Meat Inspection.

There are eight butchers' shops within the Urban District.

One Slaughterhouse is licenced in the Urban District, which is owned and used by a Sheringham butcher for the supply of meat to his retail business in the town. This Slaughterhouse has satisfactory lairage and hanging facilities for its present use and the slaughtering and dressing of carcases is carried out in a satisfactory manner.

Two Sheringham butchers use a Slaughterhouse situate in the adjoining Rural District for their meat supply, the remainder purchase their meat from fresh meat wholesalers.

A statement follows of the number of animals slaughtered, inspected and condemned in whole or part at the licenced Slaughterhouse in the Urban District:-

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	190	-	1	-	33	-
Number inspected	190	-	1	-	33	-
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCUS.</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercus.	8.42	-	-	-	-	-
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	-	-	-	2	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6.32	-	-	-	6.06	-
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS.</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The total weight of carcase parts and organs condemned amounted to $8\frac{3}{4}$ Cwts.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948. Seven inspections have been made in connection with this heading. Two informal notices were served, requiring dirty premises to be cleansed which were complied with.

R. H. SERSHALL,
Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.
Cert R.S.I. Meat and Food Inspector,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

